

In the Specification:

Please amend the **Brief Description of Drawings** as follows:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the assembled coupler lock of an embodiment of the present invention showing the shaft inserted into the lock body of the coupler lock and a key inserted into the keyway of the coupler lock;

Figure 2 is an exploded view of the coupler lock of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side view of the coupler lock of Figure 1 showing the shaft inserted into the lock body of the coupler lock;

Figure 4A is a side view of the coupler lock of Figure 1;

Figure 4B is a cross-sectional view of the coupler lock of Figure 1 as taken through A-A as shown in Figure 4A;

Figure 4C is a cross-sectional view of the coupler lock of Figure 1 as taken through B-B as shown in Figure 4A;

Figure 4D is an end view of the coupler lock of Figure 1;

Figure 4E is a cross-sectional view of the coupler lock of Figure 1 as taken through C-C as shown in Figure 4D;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the neck of a trailer, showing a latch in a closed position and a coupler lock attached to the latch such that the latch cannot be placed in an open position without removal of the coupler lock;

Figure 5A is a perspective view of the lock assembly of Figure 5, showing the latch in a closed position, the coupler lock attached to the latch, and the coupler, partially cutout, secured to a hitch ball;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the neck of another trailer, showing a latch in a closed position and a coupler lock attached to the latch such that the latch cannot be placed in an open position without removal of the coupler lock;

Figure 6A is a perspective view of the lock assembly of Figure 6, showing the latch in a closed position, the coupler lock attached to the latch, and the coupler secured to a hitch ball, which is shown partially in phantom;

Figure 7A is an exploded view of a second embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 7B is a perspective view of the embodiment shown in Figure 7A.

Please amend Paragraph 0025 as follows:

The coupler lock **10** is operated as described below. The narrow end **94** of the shaft is inserted into an opening in the device **100** (e.g., the latch of a trailer hitch) that is desired to be locked or secured. The shaft **30** is pushed through the opening until it can be pushed any further, normally at the point where the flange **92** of the shaft contacts the device **100**. The device is preferably a latch **100** of a trailer hitch **105**, the latch securing the trailer to a vehicle. A ball receiver **107** is attached to the trailer neck **105** and the latch **100** provides a securing mechanism. The latch device **100** is preferably in the closed position, meaning, in the case of a trailer hitch, that the trailer cannot be disconnected from the vehicle without moving the latch to the open position. After insertion of the shaft **30** into and through the opening in the latch **100**, the lock body **20** is attached to the shaft **30**. This is done by moving the lock body **20** to a point where the narrow end **94** of the shaft enters and is inserted through the shaft opening **48** on one of the sides of the housing **35** of the lock body **20**. The lock body **20** is designed such that the shaft **30** can be inserted into the lock body on either of the two sides of the lock body that has a shaft opening **48**. When the shaft **30** is inserted into the lock body **20**, the shaft extends through the shaft openings **83** in the housing cap **45** and through the opening **72** in the locking plate **70**. The lock body **20** is slidably moved along the shaft **30** until the locking plate **70** within the lock housing **35** is aligned and engaged with one of the recesses **95** in the shaft **30**. At such a point of engagement, the springs bias **74** the locking plate **70** into a position such that the edge of the locking plate opening contacts the bottom **106** and the vertical edge **102** of the recess **95**. Preferably, the lock body **20** is slidably moved along the shaft **30** such that the locking plate **70** engages with a shaft recess **95** that is as close as possible to the flange end **92** of the shaft. The coupler lock is adjustable for latches **100** of different widths since the shaft of the lock has multiple recesses **95**, each of which can engage the locking plate **70**. However, it is preferable if the lock body **20** is positioned at a point along the shaft **30** such that the locking plate **70** engages the shaft recess **95** that is located closest to the latch **100**. The tapered edge **104** of each shaft recess **95** provides a camming surface for the locking plate **70** such that the lock body **20** can be

slidably moved along the shaft **30**, in a direction toward the flange end **92**, without the use of a key **39**. The tapered edge **104** of the recesses allows biasing of the locking plate **70** against the force of the springs **74** as the shaft **30** is slidably moved the lock body **20**. It is also possible to unlock the locking mechanism **50**, using a key **39** for example, and then slidably move the lock body **20** along the shaft **30** toward the flange end **92**. When the lock body **20** is engaged in a shaft recess **95**, it is not possible to then slidably move the lock body **20** in the opposite direction along the shaft (i.e., in a direction toward the narrow end **94** of the shaft) in order to remove the lock body **20** from the shaft **30**. When the coupler lock **10** is so positioned, the latch **100** of the hitch cannot be opened and the trailer cannot be removed from the vehicle. Figures 5 and 6 show the latch **100** of a trailer hitch in the closed position and the coupler lock **10** attached, as described above, locking the latch in the closed position. Figures 5A and 6A show the latch **100** of a trailer hitch in the closed position and the coupler lock **10** attached, as described above, locking the latch in the closed position. The ball receiver portion **107** of the coupler is shown in contact with a hitch ball **200**. In the exemplary assembly shown, the hitch ball is mounted to a ball mount **210** by a nut **220**.